

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6654

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS PRETORIA 0260

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA; TURNHALLE COMMITTEE BEGINS MEETINGS

1. AN ABBREVIATED 12-MAN CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE OF TURNHALLE RESUMES MEETINGS JANUARY 18 IN EFFORT TO FORMULATE CONSTITUTION WHICH WOULD PERMIT EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI-RACIAL INTERIM GOVERNMENT. LEGAL ADVISORS HAVE BEEN MEETING SINCE JANUARY 3 TO PREPARE DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEES.

2. DESPITE SOME PRESS HEADLINES SUGGESTING THAT ADVISORS WERE PREPARED TO SUBMIT VIRTUALLY COMPLETE DRAFT, OTHER REPORTERS HAVE CAUTIONED THAT NO MAJOR QUESTIONS HAVE YET BEEN RESOLVED AND MANY MINOR POINTS REMAIN TO RECEIVE INITIAL CONSIDERATION. OBSERVERS ON THE SCENE CONFIRM THAT ADVISORS HAVE NOT

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MADE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO DEAL WITH KNOTTY ISSUES SUCH AS WHERE KEY POWERS WILL LIE, THE FRANCHISE, AND PROPERTY RIGHTS, BUT RATHER HAVE OUTLINED A CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK, NOTING WHERE PROBLEMS MUST BE RESOLVED, AND SUGGESTING AN AGENDA FOR METHODICALLY WORKING ON THESE PROBLEMS.

3. RAND DAILY MAIL JANUARY 18 PRESENTS ONE OF BETTER PUBLIC SUMMARIES OF SITUATION. MAIL QUOTES UNNAMED CONFERENCE DELEGATE AS SAYING COMMITTEE MUST DEVELOP FIRM PROPOSALS TO BE PRESENTED TO SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION. "WE ARE FAR FROM THAT STAGE," DELEGATE ADDED. REGARDING LEGAL ADVISORS PROPOSALS, "AT BEST ONE COULD CALL THIS A SORT OF WORKING PLAN OR GUIDELINE FOR US TO FOLLOW."

4. SIX SETS OF PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITUTION HAVE BEEN PRESENTED BY NAMAS, COLOREDS, BASTERS, WHITES, KAVANGOS AND HEREROS. THERE ARE REPORTEDLY EIGHT CONFLICTING PROPOSALS ON FORMATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. MAIL NOTES THAT, WHILE 12-MAN COMMITTEE MAY BE ABLE TO DEVELOP A REAL DRAFT WITHIN THE COMING MONTH, THAT PRODUCT WOULD STILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED BY FULL 38-MAN COMMITTEE. DIRK MUDGE CAUTIONED MAIL THAT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE, AND CONFERENCE MIGHT POSSIBLY RECONSIDER OR REJECT PROPOSALS INITIALLY PRESENTED.

5. WORK IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE UNTIL MID-FEBRUARY WHEN ANNUAL MEETING OF OVAMBO LEGISLATURE WILL NECESSITATE DEPARTURE OF THAT DELEGATION. OTHER DELEGATES REPORTEDLY ARE PLANNING TO BEGIN VISITS TO OVERSEAS AREAS AT ABOUT THAT TIME. DELEGATES ARE REPORTEDLY ANXIOUS TO PRODUCE CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF MOVEMENT TOWARD FORMATION INTERIM GOVERNMENT AS DEMONSTRATION THAT PEACEFUL EVOLUTION IS STILL CREDIBLE POSSIBILITY.

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